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Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for national and global geospatial information management entities to contribute to the development of best practices, sets of institutional models, legal frameworks and evaluation and monitoring methodologies for national geospatial information management.

Summary of the report

At its fourth session, held in New York from 6 to 8 August 2014, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 4/106, in which it welcomed the report prepared by the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements, including its draft terms of reference, work plan and road map. The Committee of Experts noted the strategic importance of national institutional arrangements, particularly given that Member States are at different stages of geospatial development and that institutional and policy frameworks are dependent on legal and fiscal arrangements and governance models which are different across the globe. It encouraged Member States with experience in implementing the issues highlighted to join the working group and/or provide examples of their experiences. The Committee of Experts requested the working group to continue to work with Member States and regional and international entities and to report to it on progress made at the next session of the Committee.

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The report contains information on the work undertaken by the working group and its three task groups during the intercessional period, as follows: production systems analysis, coordinated by Spain; funding structures, dissemination systems and data policy models, coordinated by Mexico; and the structure of geospatial information management organizations and the role of volunteered geographic information, coordinated by Singapore. The work of the task groups focused on the analysis, diagnosis, and identification of best practices across the three areas of work mentioned below.

The report presents the findings from the analysis undertaken of the data received from four global questionnaires covering the three areas of work: (a) geospatial information business model analysis; (b) structure of geospatial information management organizations; and (c) the role of people as users and producers of geospatial information. In addition, it contains proposals on preliminary indexes on evaluating institutional arrangements, assessing relevant issues and identifying best practices.